

The original documents are located in Box 35, “6/16/76 - Remarks at Presentation Ceremony of Bicentennial Gift Presented by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau of Canada” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

REMARKS AT PRESENTATION OF
CANADA'S BICENTENNIAL GIFT

Wednesday, June 16, 1976

The Rose Garden

Mr. Prime Minister, I am delighted to accept Between Friends as a gift from the Canadian people on the occasion of our Bicentennial anniversary. I do so on behalf of all Americans.

This gift has a special meaning for a border-stater like myself, whose first foreign visit was across the Canadian frontier. I very much look forward to reviewing the book's graphic depiction of the magnificent border the United States and Canada share.

This border extends for more than 5,000 miles from the Atlantic, to the Pacific to the Arctic coast. It is a border which, as you have written in your foreward, has a vitally important lesson to teach the community of nations -- a lesson of peace. Our border, from the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Niagara Falls, the Great Lakes, the Rockies to the wild and scenic Arctic terrain contains some of the world's very finest scenery. Of the greatest importance, our border is an open border, and in this Bicentennial Year, I am delighted that so many Canadians are visiting the United States to participate in our celebration just as so many Americans will be visiting Canada in July for the Montreal Olympics.

I would note that as we speak here, the Prime Minister and I have also had the pleasure of sending a message to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago where an exhibition of the photographs from the book Between Friends is opening today.

Mr. Prime Minister, we share much more than a common border, more than common problems. We share a continent, a common background, and fundamental beliefs and aspirations.

You and I will spend several hours together this evening talking about matters of mutual interest. We have had such opportunities in the past, and I look forward to our talks this evening, and in Puerto Rico later this month.

It is fitting to begin our discussions this evening on the note of historical perspective which your very handsome Bicentennial gift provides. Above all, your gift underscores the breadth and depth of relations between our countries and the very real and abiding friendship between our peoples.

Thank you.